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July 20, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
July 17, 1959

Others present: Secretary McElroy, Secretary Dillon
General Goodpaster



The President began by saying that he was very much troubled to see a leak in the press disclosing that he had sent a letter to Bohlen the preceding day. Mr. Dillon explained that this had come about at a dinner given by Ambassador Romulo the night before. He said that Romulo had called him off to the corner and asked whether the President's remarks about Mr. Bohlen connoted a lack of confidence on the part of the President in him. He had told Romulo that the President had no lack of confidence and was communicating with Mr. Bohlen to make this clear. Romulo had apparently told Betty Beale who was also a guest at the dinner, and it was her item that appeared in the newspaper. The President spoke strongly about the practice of inviting reporters, who would not honor a confidence, to such gatherings.

Mr. Dillon referred to a message just in from Mr. Herter outlining the basis of negotiation from which he was working in Geneva, and clarifying a matter which had caused the Defense Department concern. They had seen a staff paper produced in State which indicated that it was a formal State Department view; in fact it had no such status. Mr. McElroy said he was quite satisfied with the explanation given by Secretary Herter, and was delighted to know that the State Department paper he had seen had no status.

PORTIN
EX-107, 6-11-59
Fr E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-4
Re: Sec. 1-19-59

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-204

NSC REVIEW 5/26/82
By BJE Date 5/27/92

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MATCHES
Per E.O. 12065, Sec. 2.2
Declassify on: OADR

Mr. Dillon discussed further the Vice President's itinerary. Two years ago he planned to visit Poland and see Gomulka. There is for consideration the possibility of his doing it now. The President said he must make clear that he is not negotiating there or elsewhere on this trip. Mr. Dillon said that everyone is quite clear on this.



The President reverted to the leak concerning his own correspondence. He said such things make him very "jumpy" when he realizes that his own correspondence may be improperly disclosed. He suggested that Mr. Dillon call Romulo and express his acute displeasure over this incident, occurring at a private party.

Mr. Dillon next said that Mr. Nixon had asked him what his view would be as to the Attorney General, Mr. Rogers, going to Moscow with the party. He wanted to raise this with the President. The President said he is concerned about having his Cabinet officers gone too long at this stage of the Congress, and recalled that the Civil Rights Bill, the Labor Bill, and the "preemption bill" may be up for instant decision and consideration. He asked me to speak to General Persons and have him go into the matter with the Vice President and the Attorney General should he so decide. In ending the meeting the President commented that he really thought it would be better not to take Admiral Rickover. (He recalled, however, that he had stated to me the previous day that he would interpose no objection if others wished to do this.)

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Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA